Ban on Non-Government Organisations

6. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to ban the activities of Non-Government Organisations working for the upliftment of weaker sections of the society in the entire country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) No, Sir. The Government does not propose to ban the activities of the Non-Government Organisations working for the upliftment of weaker sections of the society in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

Prices of Medicines

7. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the charging of high cost of medicines by the retailers in Delhi as has been brought out in the print media some time in the past;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to open chemists shops in the hospitals through the Super Bazar and the Kendriya Bhandar to sell the drugs at nominal margin; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Goverment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per information received from Department of Chemicals & Petro Chemicals, under the, existing policy, approximately 50 per cent of the formulations are under price control and such formulations are sold at price fixed by the Government. However, in the case of formulations outside the purview of price control, companies are free to fix their own prices.

(b) and (c) According to information available, Super Bazar is selling all drugs at maximum retail price (M.R.P.) through their outlets.

Poverty Elimination Scheme

8. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are more than 200 schemes aimed at bringing out the poor from their miserable lot;

(b) whether all of them are being implemented at present;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these schemes have any impact on reducing poverty in the country; and

(e) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) to (c) The major centrally sponsored poverty alleviation programmes being implemented in the country are Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) in the rural areas and Nehru Rojgar Yojana (NRY), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP), and Urban Basic Services for Poor (UBSP) in urban areas. The details of these poverty alleviation programmes are given in the attached Statement.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, As per the Lakdawala Expert Committee on poverty estimates, the percentage of people living below the poverty line has declined from 44.48% in 1983 to 38.56% in 1987-88 and it has been further reduced to 35.97% in 1993-94.

Statement

Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes:

(i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP): IRDP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented in all the blocks of the country since 1980. Under this scheme Central funds are allocated to States on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State to the total rural poor in the country.

IRDP aims at providing self-employment opportunities to the rural poor through assistance in the form of subsidy and bank credit to enable them to acquire productive assets and appropriate skills to cross the poverty line on a sustained basis. The target group consists largely of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans whose household annual income is below the poverty line of Rs. 11000 at 1991-92 prices. Within the target group there is an ensured coverage of certain categories-SC/ST 50%; women 40%; and physically handicapped 3%. The ceiling for subsidy is Rs. 6,000 for SC/ST families and the physically handicapped; for others Rs. 5,000 in Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) areas and Rs. 4,000 in the non-Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) areas. Recently, a new category of trained literate youth has been introduced for which admissible subsidy is 50 per cent of the project cost or Rs. 7,500 whichever is less. Further, for a group of five beneficiaries subsidy has been increased to 50 per cent of the project cost or Rs. 1.25 lakh whichever is less.

Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) are two important sub-schemes of Integrated Rural Development Programme.

(ii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY): The JRY is a wage

employment programme which has been in operation since 1989. The primary objective of the JRY is the generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and underemployed persons in the rural areas. The secondary objective is the creation of sustained employment by strengthening rural infrastructure and assets in favour of the rural poor for their direct and continuing benefits, and for improvement thereby in the overall quality of life for the people in the rural areas. Under the Yojana, funds are allocated among the States/UTs on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State/UT to the total rural poor in the country. Further, the allocations to the districts within each State/UT are made on the basis of an index of backwardness which takes into account the proportion of rural SC/ST population in the district and inverse of agricultural production per agricultural worker, with equal weights. The funds under JRY (under the revised dispensation) are distributed among the village panchayats, inter-mediate panchayats and district panchayats in the ratio of 65:15:20.

(iii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS): The Employment Assurance Scheme was launched on 2nd October, 1993 in 1752 identified backward blocks situated in drought prone, desert, tribal and hill areas, in which the revamped public distribution system was in operation. The EAS has now been extended to all the blocks of the country w.e.f. 1997-98. Under this scheme assured employment for 100 days of unskilled manual work has to be provided to those who are seeking it, during the lean agricultural season. The secondary objective is the creation of rural infrastructure and community assets. Water and soil conservation works, minor irrigation works, rural roads, construction of primary school buildings and anganwadis are permissible works under the scheme. From 1995-96, 50 per cent of the funds have been earmarked for taking up works under watershed development. The Employment Assurance Scheme is a need based scheme and therefore no Statewise allocations are made. The States can demand funds in consonance with the demand for manual work during the lean agricultural season in the rural areas.

Urban Poverty Alleviation Programmes (UPAPs):

In order to tackle urban poverty, the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment MUA&E) implements three UPAPs at the national level:

(a) NRY (b) PMIUPEP (c) UBSP

All three schemes are funded in the ratio of 60:40 (central share: state share). Salient features of the various UPAPs are as given below:

Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY)

In response to the challenge posed by urban poverty, the NRY was launched by the Government in 1989. It is targetted towards persons living below the poverty line in urban areas (i.e. households with an annual household income of Rs. 11850 at 1991-92 prices). The Yojana has three components:-

(i) The Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME):

SUME assists the urban poor in upgrading their skills and setting up self-employment enterprises. A subsidy of 25% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 5000 for SCs/STs and women beneficiaries and Rs. 4,000 for general beneficiaries is provided under this scheme. The remaining amount of the project cost is available from banks as a loan upto a maximum of Rs. 15,000 for SCs and STs and women beneficiaries and Rs. 12,000 for general beneficiaries. The schemes is applicable to all urban settlements.

(ii) The Scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE):

SUWE seeks to provide wage employment to the urban poor by utilising their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets in the jurisdiction of urban local bodies. The material labour ratio of 60:40 is to be maintained under the scheme for various public works. This scheme is applicable to all urban areas with a population of below one lakh.

(iii) The Scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation (SHASU):

SHASU seeks to provide assistance for housing and shelter upgradation to economically weaker sections of the urban population as well as providing opportunities for wage employment and upgradation of construction skills. The loan upto a ceiling of Rs. 9950 and a subsidy upto a ceiling of Rs. 1000 is provided under the scheme to the beneficiaries for housing/shelter upgradation. This scheme is applicable to urban settlements having a population below 20 lakhs.

Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP):

Recognising the seriousness and complexity of urban poverty problems, especially in the small towns where the situation is very grave due to lack of resources for planning their environment and development, the then Prime Minister had announced on 15.8.94, an integrated scheme for eradication of urban poverty known as Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP). The foremost objective of this programme is to attack several root causes of urban poverty simultaneously in an integrated manner with an appropriate and suitable plan strategy for covering the inputs available in other sectoral programmes of Central/State Governments, Ministries/Departments as well as Non-Governmental Organisations by envisaging participatory implementation of the programme with the aim to eradicate urban poverty for the targetted areas by the turn of the century.

The specific objectives under the new programme will be:

(a) effective achievement of social sector goals;

(b) community empowerment;

(c) convergence through sustainable support system;

(d) employment generation and skill upgradation; and

(e) improvement of hygiene and sanitation and environmental improvement.

Tha main components of ths programme are:

(a) Self-employment through setting up of micro enterprises and skill development, (b) Environmental improvement through provision of basic physical amenities, (c) Shelter Upgradation (d) Community organisation & empowerment, (e) Strenthening of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), (f) Setting up of National Urban Poverty Eradication Fund (NUPEF), (g) Training of functionaries and development of urban base, (h) Involvement of NGOs.

The programme will be applicable to Class II towns with a population of 50,000 to less than one lakh which number 345 as per 1991 census. The scheme was extended to cover 72 district towns in the North-Eastern States, Sikkim, J & K, Himachal Pradesh, Garhwal and Kumaon regions of UP.

Urban Basic Services for Poor (UBSP):

UBSP is a dynamic process which functions with the broad goal of creating a facilitating environment for significant improvement in the quality of life of the urban poor. This is envisaged to be achieved through community organisation and mobilisation, empowerment of communities, especially of women in order to equip them in the roles of decision making and community management and a process of covergence to enhance the reach and effectiveness of the existing sectoral programmes for the urban poor who are found not only in slums but in a wide range of conditions and places. It aims to introduce a pro-poor orientation in the design of new programmes and evolve innovative partnership arangements to fulfill the community's critical needs.

The Urban Basic Services Programme (UBS) in India was initiated during the Seventh Five Year Plan period for urban poverty alleviation. Based on the experience of implementing the UBS Programme and the recommendations of the National Commission on Urbanisation, the Government revised it as urban Basic Services for the poor (UBSP) in 1991 and integrated it with other urban poverty alleviation programmes like Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums (EIUS). Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Low Cost Sanitation (LCS).

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Madhya Pradesh

9. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the additional financial assistance sought by Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the allocation made by the Union Government, scheme-wise and year-wise;

(c) the reasons for not providing funds as per the demand;

(d) whether the additional financial assistance sought during the current financial year has been released;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) and (b) In the year 1994-95 additional central assistance of Rs. 1 crore was given to Madhya Pradesh for widening of road from Ashok Nagar to Esagar in district Guna. An amount of Rs. 25 crore as central assistance was provided in 1995-96 for strengthening of Panchayat Raj System in Madhya Pradesh. No additional central assistance was provided in the year 1996-97.

(c) The additional central assistance is given for various schemes taking into consideration the actual requirement and the availability of resources with the Planning Commission.

(d) No additional financial assistance has been sought by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in the current financial year.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Primary Health Centres in Orissa

10. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of primary health centres and family planning centres functioning in Orissa as on May 31, 1997; and

(b) the amount provided to these centres by the Union Government during 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the available information 1056 Primary Health Centres are functioning in Orissa as on 31st December, 1996.

Family Welfare Services are also provided through a network of Rural Family Welfare Centres, Post Partum Centres, Urban Family Welfare Centres and Urban Health Posts. In the State of Orissa there are 314 Rural Family Welfare Centres, 79 Post Partum Centres, 10 Urban Family Welfare Centres and 8 Urban Health Posts.

(b) Primary Health Centres are established and maintained by the State Government under the State sector Minimum Need Programme. 100% financial assistance is provided to the States for Rural Family Welfare Centres,